



Bitterroot National Forest

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and



Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen

JOINT NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Affairs Officer
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NOTE TO MEDIA: We welcome media coverage of this work project. The crew will be working from 9:00 – 3:00 on Saturday, June 2nd.

Your reporters are invited to visit the project during any portion of the work day and stay for the potluck supper in the late afternoon. The Bitter Root BCH plans to serve turkey and several Dutch oven dishes along with food brought by individual members. In addition to covering the volunteer trail project, you might consider interviewing the Dutch oven cooks.

Please contact Karen Philips at 961-0101 if a reporter plans to visit the project so she can coordinate their visit.

“Back Country Horsemen Plan Trail Work for National Trails Day”

Hamilton, Montana, May 23, 2007 — National Trails Day is June 2nd and the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen will kick off their annual trail work projects on that day, with a project on the Larry Creek Trail.

The National Trails Day project will include trail clearing, cleaning water bars, and repairing tread and drainage structures on both the upper and lower Larry Creek Trails. A potluck supper will follow at the Larry Creek Group Site.

The Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen’s spokeswoman Karen Philips explains that “The Bitter Root chapter of Back Country Horsemen was one of the first established in the nation and is over 30 years old.

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Our goal is to ensure that stock users continue to be able to access backcountry and wilderness trails. As part of this, we do trail maintenance projects with the Forest Service each year, and we invest our resources in educating people about how to enjoy the backcountry while taking proper care of stock and of the natural resources."

Stevensville District Ranger Dan Ritter is quite complimentary of the group. "The importance of the work that the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen accomplishes each year increases as our agency's own trail crew numbers dwindle. In a typical year, the BCH contributes over 1000 hours of volunteer trail work on this Forest, and their work benefits all trail users, not just stock users."

Additional work projects planned for this summer include work on the Moose Creek Trail in the East Fork drainage and on the Little Rock Creek trail near Lake Como. The Moose Creek trail was heavily impacted by fallen trees this past year, and the BCH plan to spend June 8th and 9th sawing and clearing the trail. The June 30th work project on Little Rock Creek will include tree clearing and trail maintenance.

For additional information about the project, or about the Bitter Root Back Country Horsemen, please contact Karen Philips at 961-0101.

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